

February 3, 2003

Mr. Thomas Baillieul, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
Columbus Closure Project
1425 Plain City-Georgesville Rd.
West Jefferson, OH 43162

Dear Mr. Baillieul:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (January 25–31, 2003)

I. Operations:

Building JN-1:

The interior of the 5,000-gallon tank has been cleaned and the exterior has been marked in preparation for cutting (Work Instruction [WI-] 1114).

High Energy Cell (HEC) overhead decontamination and utility removal continued on split shifts (WI-1142). The following activities were completed:

- Wet washed the entire overhead of the cell from the ceiling to the floor
- Removed the cover from the man-lift to gain better access to the cranes
- Washed both the 1-ton and 5-ton cranes
- Cleaned the fresh air intakes located on the south end of the cell
- Removed all utilities from the overheads and higher elevations in the cell
- Generated, filtered, and sampled approximately 400 gallons of water
- Began aggressive decontamination of the floor in the HEC with the Rotopeener to lower the dose rates in the cell.

WI-1155, which covers removal of the large plugs from the HEC, was issued. Staff will be briefed next week, and removal activities will begin. A second steel pallet to be used for block removal is being fabricated and will be available next week.

WI-1099, which covers removal of the HEC cranes, is still under development. Myers Movers will be meeting with BCLDP personnel to develop its work plan and should be going into the HEC next week to inspect the cranes and crane rails to help in planning.

A contract was issued to Hot Cell Services for removal of the HEC shielding windows. They are scheduled to begin work on February 10th. The associated work instruction (WI-1126) has been drafted and is undergoing review.

Building JN-3:

Core cutting and well drilling continued. Installation of the wells in the pump room of JN-3 has been completed, and installation of the wells in the basement has begun.

West Jefferson (WJ) External Areas:

The groundwater monitoring wells were completed to the bedrock level. One of the pumping wells on the north side of JN-3 has been completed (WI-1136).

Work continued on the planned JN-12 Access Control Point/Locker Room trailer to be located on top of the existing footers outside JN-3. Supplementary specification information was provided to the three vendors to assist in their final preparation of bids and proposals, which are due next week.

TRU Waste Shipping:

Both 10-160B casks were washed and the first cask was backed into the JN-1 high bay. GTS personnel arrived to support cask loading this weekend for shipment on Monday.

Low Level Waste (LLW) Operations:

Five (5) 55-gallon drums of LLW were compacted in the Charpy Cell. Thirty-five cubic feet (35 ft³) of LLW tank sludge were accepted for absorption and final packaging. Non-compactable low-level debris from radioactive material areas in JN-1 was packaged into B-25 boxes for a total volume of 125 ft³ (115 ft³ for Envirocare and 10 ft³ for Hanford disposal).

Forty-five (45) cubic feet (340 gallons) of process water from the JN-2 Radioanalytical Laboratory were radiologically free-released and transferred into the evaporator.

Technology Deployment:

Staff injected 3,000 gallons of water into the soil of Plot 2 and recorded the plot subsurface water level over many time intervals. Operating procedures for the WIDE system are in draft form and being prepared for review. Sauer began the needed engineering modifications for extraction (WI-984).

II. Environmental Safety and Health Performance:

Safety performance is 787 days and 515,104 exposure hours without a lost time injury accident.

Mr. Thomas Baillieul, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
Columbus Closure Project
February 3, 2003
Page 3 of 3

III. Facilities and Equipment:

Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenance of the WJ North facility alarms, instrumentation, building functions, tickler system, and grounds were completed.

The evaporator continues to work well. The tank was refilled with 375 gallons of water. The water temperature is 130°F.

A new battery was ordered for the Raymond Stand-up Reach Forklift after the Special Concepts technician determined that the old one needed to be replaced.

The routine monthly electrical inspection of all the overhead cranes at the north site was completed.

Buckeye Landscape continues to remove snow and ice at the north site.

Planning continued in the following areas:

- WI-1119 for the JN-6 reroofing is being reviewed, but the start of work depends on the weather.
- The vendor for the new JN-1 transformer, which will supply electricity to breathing air and eventually to the new water processing room, has projected a shipping date of February 15, 2003.
- WI-1131 for the JN-1B Pump Room roof resurfacing is being reviewed.
- Plans continued to replace the JN-1B groundwater sump pump. The current pump's float switch has failed.

IV. Future Work Activities:

Attached is the projected work schedule for the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Patrick Weaver, P.E., Manager
Operations

PJW:dew/dmk